NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM, MICROIRRIGATION

OPERATOR: _____ DATE: _____

TAX MAP KEY OF PRACTICE LOCATION: _____

NRCS OFFICE: _____ PHONE: _____

A properly operated and maintained microirrigation system is an asset to your farm. This microirrigation system is designed and installed to apply irrigation water to meet the needs of the crops without causing excessive erosion or runoff. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this system can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

OPERATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Your irrigation system will function properly only if it is operated at the recommended pressure and flow rate. Operating the system at higher pressures or irrigating more than the number of sections recommended may damage the system components.
- Irrigate when needed to furnish water for plant growth. The soil stores moisture within the rooting depth of the plant.
- During non-use, drain and place the removable part of the system in an area where it will not be damaged.
- Do not allow livestock near equipment.

_____

_____

_____

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The reduced pressure principle backflow prevention valve requires annual testing and certification by the County Water Department.
- Check to make sure that all connections are water tight and all valves are working-properly.
- Periodically examine each emitter for designed discharge, clogging, and damage. Replace or repair as necessary.
- Flush lateral lines regularly. This may help prevent clogging of the emitters.
- Make sure that the filter system is working; even if it is automatic, it needs constant monitoring. Clean and backflush filters as needed.
- Immediately repair vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.
- Bury or repaint exposed PVC pipe sections.
- Check operating pressures often, a pressure drop or rise may indicate problems.
- Check pressure gauges to ensure proper operation; repair/replace damaged gauges.
- Inject chemicals as required to prevent precipitate buildup and algae growth.
- Check chemical injection equipment regularly to ensure it is operating properly.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN.

NRCS, HI
August 2002